

FOREWORD

The Peri-Tethys Memoir 2 developed out of the symposium on "Structure and Prospects of Alpine Basins and Forelands", held during the *American Association of Petroleum Geologists* International Conference and Exhibition October 17-20th, 1993 in The Hague, The Netherlands. This two and one half days symposium was convoked by Peter A. Ziegler and Frank Horv  th; it aimed at discussing the structure, evolution and hydrocarbon habitat of the different segments of the Alpine-Mediterranean fold-and-thrust belts and associated foreland and back-arc basins. The program consisted of 33 papers covering the Alpine system from the Gibraltar Arc to the Black Sea and the frontal thrust belt of the East Taurus. Abstracts of this symposium were published in the *American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin*, 77 (9), 1993. Participation of several speakers from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union in this international symposium was sponsored by *Shell Internationale Petroleum Mij. B.V.*

In the course of this symposium it was realized that papers presented provided a unique insight into the data accumulated, mainly by the petroleum industry, during its exploration for oil and gas in the different fold-and-thrust belts of the Alpine system and its associated basins. As this information is vital to the understanding of the evolution of the Alpine system and the Peri-Tethyan platforms, speakers were canvassed already during the symposium for a possible contribution of their papers to the publication in a proceedings volume. In general the response was positive and often immediate.

The next step was the task of the conveners to find an organization which was willing to sponsor publication of such a volume. After the *American Association of Petroleum Geologists* had declined sponsorship, the conveners were informed July 13th 1994 that the Executive Committee of the international Peri-Tethys Program, headed by Prof. Dr. Jean Dercourt and Dr. Bernard Tissot, had decided to sponsor publication of the symposium proceedings as Peri-Tethys Memoir 2, to be edited by P. A. Ziegler and F. Horv  th. With this, collection of manuscripts from contributors commenced. Unfortunately, a number of papers presented during the symposium were withdrawn as authors were assigned to different tasks in their organization or had changed to an other company. Nevertheless, the editors were able to assemble 24 papers which provide a fairly comprehensive coverage of the Alpine-Mediterranean system of fold-and-thrust belts and basins. This list includes some papers which were not presented during the symposium but which were invited at a later stage to cover areas of particular interest.

Papers included in this memoir come from the petroleum industry, from national research agencies and from universities. These papers are in so far heterogeneous as the aspects emphasized by the different authors vary considerably. However, all papers address the structural and stratigraphic evolution of the respective area and its hydrocarbon habitat. All papers included in this volume are based on recent compilations and integrations of surface — and sub-surface geological and geophysical data, acquired in the context of hydrocarbon exploration and/or scientific research programs aiming at understanding the architectures and origin of a specific orogen or basin. Much of the data presented in this volume, particularly on East-European areas, was hitherto difficult to access, partly due to its confidentiality and partly due to linguistic difficulties. In respect of the latter, major and often very time consuming editorial efforts were required.

The Peri-Tethys Memoir 2 is organized into an introductory and five regional chapters. In the introductory chapter, the architecture of the Alpine orogen and its hydrocarbon systems are

reviewed. In addition, a set of palaeogeographic maps is presented, retracing the Mesozoic opening of Tethys and its Alpine closure, resulting in the suturing of Africa-Arabia and Europe. The following chapters aim at providing the reader with a summary of the structural and stratigraphic evolution, architecture and hydrocarbon potential of selected parts of the Alpine-Mediterranean orogenic belt and its associated basins.

All papers were reviewed by the senior editor and most of them by one or more peer or outside reviewers; thanks are extended to these reviewers for their efforts. The lay-out of this memoir was taken care of by Dr Frank Horváth, Péter Szafián, László Lenkey and Orsolya Magyari at the Loránd Eötvös University, Budapest. Editorial expenses were covered by the Peri-Tethys Program.

The editors would like to thank all contributing authors for their commitment to this project and their sponsoring organizations for releasing the respective papers for publication. Special thanks go to *EXXON Exploration Company* for absorbing the reproduction costs of the palaeogeographic maps, given in the paper by P. O. Yilmaz *et al.*, and to *Elf-Aquitaine Exploration and Production Company* for financially supporting colour reproduction of text figures given in the paper by M. Le Vot *et al.*

This volume could not have been produced without close cooperation between academic and industrial Earth scientists. Such cooperation forms the basis of the on-going Peri-Tethys Program, the sponsors of which are thanked for having agreed to the publication of this volume.

Peter A. ZIEGLER & Frank HORVÁTH
Editors

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P. Jordan	Amt für Wasserwirtschaft, Solothurn, Switzerland
H.-P. Laubscher	University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
P. E. R. Lovelock	Shell Internationale Petroleum Mij. BV, Den Haag, The Netherlands
A. Mascle	Institut Français du Pétrole, Rueil-Malmaison, France
F. Roure	Institut Français du Pétrole, Rueil-Malmaison, France
S. M. Schmid	University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
M. Schwander	Shell Internationale Petroleum Mij. BV, Den Haag, The Netherlands
M. Stefanescu	Amoco Romania, Bucharest, Romania
M. A. Vul	UkrDGRI, Lvov, Ukraine
P. A. Ziegler	University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland